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acids 957-987 and 1262-1305) are underlined. The positions for the P-loop (Walker A) and Walker B of NB-ARC domain are indicated. The LRR repeats are in bold letters (amino acids 808-948), and the CARD domain is in bold underlined letters (amino acids 1373-1473).

On page 20 and 21, please delete the paragraph starting at page 20, line 29 and insert therefor:

Isoforms of the NAC proteins are also provided which arise from alternative mRNA splicing and may alter or modify the interactions of the NAC protein with other proteins. For example, three novel isoforms of NAC are provided herein and designated: NAC β , NAC γ and NAC δ (set forth as SEQ ID Nos:1, 3 and 5, respectively). The amino acid sequence and the portion of cDNA encoding the amino acid sequence of NAC β is shown in Figure 1C, and the NAC β cDNA and amino acid sequences are listed as SEQ ID NOs: 1 and 2, respectively. NAC β represents the NAC splice variant in which both splice regions are present in the translated polypeptide, thereby including the nucleic acids 1-4422 of the NAC cDNA sequence and amino acids 1-1473 of the NAC protein sequence of Figure 1C. NAC γ represents the NAC splice variant in which neither splice region is present in the translated polypeptide, thereby including the nucleic acids 1-2869, 2960-3783, and 3916-4422 of the NAC cDNA sequence and amino acids 1-956, 988-1261, and 1306-1473 of the NAC protein sequence of Figure 1C. The NAC γ cDNA and amino acid sequences are listed as SEQ ID NOs:3 and 4, respectively. NAC δ represents